

TRIBUTE TO ILYSE SCHUMAN

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, it is one of the great traditions of the Senate, when we pass legislation that will change the direction of the Nation and our economy, that we pause for a moment after final passage to acknowledge the efforts of those members of our staffs who worked so hard behind the scenes to help us bring the matter to the floor for a vote.

We all have great staffs, people who are committed to the future of our country and to making a difference that will last for generations to come. Although that is true, I have always said that my team ranks with the best. In fact, if there were an Olympic event for staffs, I have no doubt my team would win the gold medal.

Because of the role they play in our work, they have a tendency to get noticed by the groups and organizations that are involved in the issues that come before the House and the Senate. The working relationship they develop with our staffs often leads to increased opportunities and sends some of our best workers off the Hill and into the private sector.

When that happens, I like to believe we are not losing a staffer; we are just expanding our field of influence. Still, when you lose someone who has played such a key role in the day to day work of our offices and the Senate, it is a great loss to the team as a whole.

I thought about that when I learned of Ilyse Schuman's plans to leave the committee and take a leadership position with the Medical Imaging and Technology Alliance. Although I was sorry to hear the news, I was pleased to know that she would be working for such a well respected and effective organization. It will be another great opportunity for her and I know she will make the most of it.

I can say that with certainty because that is the kind of person Ilyse Schuman is—thoughtful, reflective and committed to the future of our country and our health care system. Her interest in the problems we face as a nation and her ability to work with staffs on both sides of the aisle to find solutions that work and make sense was one of the principal reasons why we hired her several years ago.

I remember standing on the Senate floor earlier this year, when we passed the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. This groundbreaking legislation will unlock a door that will allow people to get the kind of genetic testing they need to give them an advance warning about something that might happen to their health down the road if they don't take the steps today to prevent or at least weaken its effects. The legislation we passed that day will ensure the results of our tests will be used for our benefit, and will not be allowed to be used against us in our employment or our insurance coverage.

That bill had been a key part of the committee's legislative agenda for 6

years. That was just about the time when we hired Ilyse Schuman. In my remarks on the bill's final passage, I said that I had often heard it said that it usually takes 6 years to get an important idea through the Senate. I said I wasn't sure I believed it, until I realized that she had been working on the bill for 6 years and that fact seemed to prove the idea has some merit.

I should have known that if it were possible to get the job done, Ilyse would have been a part of it because she has a history of excellence and making the impossible possible. She graduated cum laude from Tufts University and then earned her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center—with honors. More recently, she was named a John Stennis Congressional Staff Fellow for the 109th Congress.

She had been working as the senior counsel at a firm in Chicago when someone we interviewed suggested we talk to her about a position on the committee. She hadn't given much thought to government service, but the time must have been right because we were very pleased when she decided to pack her bags and come to Washington to begin this chapter in her life.

Now, as it comes to a close, Ilyse has a lot to look back on with a great deal of pride and personal satisfaction. Among the legislation she helped to shepherd through the legislative process, in addition to the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, was the Food and Drug Amendments Act, Health Information Technology legislation, FDA Drug Safety Reform, the Pension Protection Act, Head Start, Patient Safety, the Workforce Investment Act, and many more. In addition, she has played a vital leadership role on the Committee and served as more than its staff director, she has been more of a coach who helped the whole team to work together and function as a more efficient unit. She is going to be very difficult to replace. In fact, she is one of those people who can't be replaced. We will find someone with special talents and abilities to take over the responsibilities of our new staff leader, but she will be missed and remembered with great appreciation for her outstanding efforts and her winning personality and attitude.

Ilyse was once asked about her position on the committee and how much it meant to her to have a chance to do something that would last, something that would make life better for us all. She said it meant a lot to her to be a part of the work on "the issues that are most personal to everyone's lives." She saw it as "an opportunity to have a huge impact on the quality of life across the country."

Ilyse knew that to have the impact she hoped to achieve, she would need to forge good working relationships with staffs on both sides of the aisle. Fortunately, it was one of her strong suits. Ilyse knows how to disagree without being disagreeable. That was important

because, at the end of the day, when she went home after a long day's work, she left with the respect of her colleagues in every office she worked with, a respect that was mutual and will prove to be lasting.

Now Ilyse is leaving to take on another exciting adventure in her life. Diana and I will miss seeing her every day because she has become part of our extended family. We wish her the best of luck in this and in all of her future endeavors. In the months to come, I know we can continue to look to her for her leadership, direction and guidance on our efforts to make our Nation's health care system better, more effective, more efficient and more responsive for all Americans. It is a heartfelt goal Ilyse is determined to achieve and I know she will continue to be a part of that effort in the years to come. Knowing Ilyse and the operation of the Senate, I would say that we will be seeing the results of her efforts in just about 6 years.

I won't say goodbye, Ilyse. I know I will be hearing more from you and about you in the months and years to come. So I will just say keep in touch and we'll all look forward to seeing you around this special campus on the Hill, I hope, for a long, long time.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heart-breaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

This in response to your request for stories from Idaho citizens about the impact of rising gas prices on our lives. We are fortunate in that, though the increased prices are a drain, they do not put us in financial jeopardy. However, we are taking steps to decrease our use of gasoline. We both have bicycles and have started using them to run some of our errands, visit friends and, on occasion, travel to and from work. We consolidate errands to avoid multiple trips. When driving I avoid quick stops and starts and

get off the gas when on a down slope. If I use a drive up and will have to wait, I turn off the engine. We never let our vehicles idle in cold weather to warm up. This is a waste that is endemic in Idaho.

As regards for suggestions for ways the government can help, I agree with supporting alternative energy sources; however, I do not see how nuclear energy will offset gasoline use. My understanding is that part of our problem is lack of sufficient numbers or modern refineries. With the oil companies enjoying record profits, they should be dealing with this issue. It does not make sense to me for the taxpayer to foot the bill for this. More can be done to support development of non-food sources of ethanol, e.g. switch grass and other non-food plants; and waste products from wood products industries and crop waste such as corn and other grain stalks. Support is needed for development of better public transportation such as buses and light rail. Use of roundabouts instead of signals or stop signs at intersections will also consume less fuel and produce less pollution. I am not sure how you provide incentives to people for conserving energy in their driving practices but anything that can educate people about how to conserve would probably be useful. One positive about the high cost of gasoline is that people are finally thinking about how they can conserve. Gas has been so cheap that we have been very careless in our usage and neither the populace nor the government has had much incentive to conserve through driving practices, design of vehicles or development and use of public transportation. I love the convenience of my car but I think all of us are going to have to look at some lifestyle changes if we want to decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

Thank you for soliciting input from your constituents.

FAYE, Boise.

Energy costs have taken it toll in our household. Both my husband and I have gotten second jobs part time just to make ends meet. If it were just the hike in energy costs we would have to say to ourselves grin and bear it. But everything across the board has increased.

Soaring food prices: What was an average of \$70 per week has now increased to \$140-\$150 per week. And it is increasing each week. Standard monthly bills have increased by at least \$3 per month. It might not seem much of an increase but there again, across-the-board monthly increases add up over the months.

We have definitely changed our life styles. No dining out. We drive only when we have to. And when we do have to go out, we make sure we do everything we have to do in one trip. We make sure lights are turned off when not in use, and we refrain from using the air conditioner. Laundry day is now only twice a week. We try to BBQ as much as possible so we can save by not using our gas range.

We have never seen things as bad as they are today. We do not expect any hands-outs from our government, but there are millions of people who are suffering right now and were afraid millions more to follow.

Where is the government in all of this? Why cannot government solve these problems? We Americans pay taxes, but it would seem our tax money is being mismanaged. It is plain to see this government does not have its peoples' best interest at heart. Congress does not have their priorities straight. Energy and the economy should come first! Without middle-class Americans, where will the government be? Sad as it is, middle-class America is fading!

Government (Congress) needs to stop discussing the problems and start taking action

now. Wind power, nuclear power, with all the hi-tech advantage this nation holds, they cannot find a way? Stop playing the blame games and work together to solve these and many other problems.

THE MARSHALLS, Meridian.

We are a small family living what we consider to be a decent life in a rural Idaho community. The increasing gas prices have affected the costs of other things, such as groceries, to increase in price as well. In an effort to keep the added costs from impacting our standard of living too much we have taken a few steps, such as:

Attending church closer to home.

Limiting shopping trips to a bare minimum.

Watering lawns less, so that it will grow less, requiring less mowing.

Driving a 40 mpg car, when we'd rather run something more comfortable and safer.

Passing on taking trips to see family; our nearest family members are 350 miles away.

Buying things locally, as opposed to shopping at places like Costco since the cost of a trip to Costco down by Boise is very costly.

Buying a whole beef, as opposed to supermarket cuts, saving a couple of dollars per pound, depending upon the cut.

Buying items in bulk, including flour, detergents, etc.

Baking our own brownies, cookies, rolls, and breads. The cost of grain products has gone very high, and bakery products have increased substantially.

Making sourdough waffles and pancakes to save on the cost of pancake flour.

Making our own ice cream.

Making our own fruit rollups.

Foregoing physicians visits as much as absolutely possible, passing on new eyeglasses.

Taking Benadryl as opposed to prescription allergy meds, even though the Benadryl makes us drowsy and does not work as well—the cost is much lower.

Making our own pastas.

Making homemade salads as opposed to buying deli salads.

Doing our own haircuts, hair coloring, and perms at home, using home products, instead of going to the salon or barber shop.

Quit dining out, all meals can come from home—this includes packing lunches.

Mowing our lawn ourselves, instead of hiring a neighborhood boy to do it for us.

Giving up "date night", and movies, both in theater and rental movies.

Staying home more.

Changing our son to a less expensive day care.

If things get worse we will have to look at other things, such as:

Growing a garden, and canning/freezing fruits and veggies.

Putting in several fruit trees.

Buying a whole pork, instead of retail cuts.

Fishing to put in freezer for future meals.

Raising chickens, both for eggs and meat.

Sewing some of our own clothing items.

Walking to work—a round trip including daycare is about 4.5 mile.

These higher costs have us very concerned; something must be done to bring things back into balance.

If many other people adopt habits like we have, and are considering, there will be a ripple through effect of job loss. We are spending less in the grocery store, less from the butcher, less with diners, delis, movie rental places, theaters, the bakery, barber shop and beauty shop, just to mention a few. We are also buying fewer ready to eat or cook with products, and are making our foods from scratch.

If we start actually growing and raising our own foods the effects will ripple through the economy as well—especially if lots of other people feel the need to do the same.

We are not living in "pioneer" times, but we may have to live like we are if prices continue to spiral out of control. Going into debt just to cover daily living expenses is simply not an option.

Please encourage your fellow members of Congress to require the development of domestic oil.

Furthermore, please press a mandate on the production of hydrogen fueled vehicles, with the availability of fueling sources mandated as well. We need to be getting ourselves weaned off of the fossil fuels—since they cannot possibly last forever.

SHARENE, Weiser.

Four of us are employed at Grounds Maintenance Equipment, Inc. in Boise, by the fairgrounds. We all live in Emmett. Three commute together. Last week we all shifted to a 10-hour, four-day week, because the commuting costs (gasoline) left us no choice.

There is no quick solution. It seems that the Left cannot do more than one thing at a time. They cannot promote conservation—a worthy enterprise—and consider drilling, in the same year. It is my opinion that there is a long-term agenda being promoted by the Dems to turn America into a socialist dictatorship. I cannot envision any other reason they do what they do.

MEL and ROSIE, Emmett.

Thanks for the email. You are completely correct—high gas prices are making things difficult. Although, gas is only one of the many things that are getting more and more expensive. Food costs are going through the roof. The only thing that is not rising fast is, unfortunately, our wages. I would like to see our leadership make a real effort to raise wages to a livable level. A livable wage in Idaho is like \$10 something per hour, higher in counties like Ada and Blaine.

Unfortunately, I believe your policy solutions are sadly misguided. Domestic drilling will not significantly reduce prices for the consumer. Nuclear energy is among the most expensive ways to produce energy. It relies on taxpayer dollars to make it economically viable. And both are terrible for the environment. I hope you take the time to reassess these policies.

DOUG.

My husband and I live very frugally. Due to his brain injury, we have to wait incredible lumps of time for Social Security Disability appeal. He and I are in agreement that the "energy crisis" is a social agenda of the green movement that has been in place for decades.

With that said, we are in favor of nuclear energy that is a proven benefit and drilling for our domestic oil. Often the legislators and others opposed to such drilling say it would be too long to build refineries to find relief. I believe that the American people would be patient with the time it takes to build them and be willing to suffer the gas prices knowing we had hope to sustain our own oil provisions and not be dependent on foreign oil.

YVONNE and MARK, Meridian.

Thank you for inviting our comments on this problem. My wife and I retired in 2003 with a financial plan that made a lot of sense: we sold our home and bought a motor home, which we used for two years to see some of these great United States. Then we lived in it in Emmett while building our retirement home here. We cleaned up the motor home to sell it, which was an integral part of our plan because the payments on it were \$1200 per month.

You probably guessed the rest of the story. We have a large mortgage on our new house

and our investments have performed less well than we might have hoped. But the biggest problem we have is that in a year and a half we have not had a single offer on our motor home. Friends tell us we will not be able to sell it. We took it to Bretz RV in Missoula, MT, one of the leading sellers of RVs including consignment sales. That was last August. We have dropped the price below what we owe on it and still cannot get any offers. The price of diesel is what is causing the market for motor homes to dry up. In short, our retirement cash flow is in trouble due to fuel prices, not to mention our costs have skyrocketed.

We are thoroughly disillusioned by our government's refusal to tell the environmentalists to get pound sand and let our oil companies develop the enormous oil and natural gas reserves we have, while competitor nations drill for our right off our shores. The "pristine parkland" in ANWR is a hoax—we have seen pictures of the small area where drilling rights were sought. We need nuclear power plants to be built as quickly as possible, oil refineries as quickly as possible, and the development of those resources.

Yes, alternative energy sources are a good thing, and we need eventually to phase out the gasoline auto, but this takes time. The government is responsible for our predicament, in our opinion, and needs to start putting the needs of America ahead of politics.

TIM and PEGGY, *Emmett*.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to share our story with you. We are most definitely feeling the effects of the ever-increasing costs of fuel. We are a family of six. We own three cars and have four drivers. Our college-age daughter chose a summer job that was close to home just so she can save on gas money. We have been discussing how we will make ends meet with the rising fuel costs. We have decided to pull our youngest children (ages 11 and 13) out of piano lessons. They were in their 3rd and 5th year respectively. Our daughter, Katie, may have to give up flute lessons. Katie has been volunteering at St. Luke's Hospital for the past two years. She was hoping to volunteer there through her senior year of high school, but it may soon cost too much to get her there and back. Our son is volunteering at the Garden City Library. He is enjoying it, but we are uncertain how long he will be able to participate once again because the amount it costs us to get him there. We are a family that believes in volunteering and giving of our time and resources—but there is only so much we can do. We have recently switched to a doctor in Eagle just so we would not have to travel into downtown Boise. We evaluate every time we plan to go somewhere—can we really afford the gas? We have even denied our kids the opportunity to go to mid-week youth group at church because it is in Southeast Boise—too far to drive. We feel badly for the other families/organizations our decisions will affect—two moms who give piano/flute lessons from their homes, the volunteer office at St. Luke's, the library, etc. We do not have the luxury of buying newer more fuel-efficient cars; we must do with what we have.

We are extremely frustrated with Congress over its inability to do anything constructive to solve the problem, which for the most part they are responsible for causing. We support drilling for our own oil both offshore and in ANWR. We support building more refineries. We also fully support the expansion of our nuclear energy facilities, mining of coal and oil shale in addition to renewable forms of energy such as wind and solar. More hearings and investigations on "Big Oil" and speculators is a waste of time along with taxing "windfall profits". Please urge your

peers to do something constructive to solve the problem.

Thanks again for this opportunity.

KELLY and KRISTI, *Eagle*.

I work at the INL but commute 45 minutes both ways to work; my husband also works in Idaho Falls. However, we work at different times—my work begins at 7:00 and off at 4:30. He starts at 10 and off at 6—so we both drive. At the present time, we are considering selling our home of 35 years and moving closer to Idaho Falls. We are spending over \$110 a week with the two cars making the trip to Idaho Falls five times a week. I have started a car pool with a few employees that will help some, but the fact is—it hurts. For the first time in many years, we are finding ourselves in financial distress.

We do not want to sell the house, we have raised our kids there—we love it. And, we do not want to sell it at this time when the market is such that we will not get from it what it is worth.

There has to be a better way. I hope you can find it. Good luck.

UNSIGNED.

We should not lean on foreign oil providers to lower their prices when we have enough oil under American soil to last for hundreds of years. The so-called environmentalists have caused this massive problem which has the possibility to sink America.

I like the scene of oil rigs on the horizon, it is a beautiful landscape. I do not believe the so-called environmentalists care one whit about our environment, they are out to see America die, and they are well on their way to accomplishing their goal.

A word to the wise.

CURT, *Wilder*.

As a country, we had plenty of time to both prepare for and possibly prevent the situation we are in. However, we cannot change the past and now we are going to march into a new and different world. I wonder whether we will be smarter this time.

Frankly, I see the silver lining in the increased cost of energy. We are going to have to incentivize the discovery and use of new, sustainable forms of energy. Maybe we'll think long term instead of searching for the short term fixes.

We will get a chance to pay more attention to our local communities rather than driving away for fun or shipping produce (and water!) from the other side of the planet. We will get a glimpse of how a large part of the rest of the world lives. We'll start appreciating and caring for what we have rather than strive for ever increasing heights of consumption. We'll ride bikes, fix sidewalks, meet neighbors and save our energy use for when using energy is really necessary. Maybe we'll even revisit one of the most taboo of subjects—whether we should curb population growth. (Just think—1/100th the population means 100 times the resources.)

So, there you have it. The energy "crisis" is of our own making. We had our chances, but maybe now we'll pay attention. The question is whether the transition to a world of scarcity will be peaceful or turbulent. In times of stress, those with the most resources are often the least affected, yet they often control positions of leadership. By the way . . . if you thought an energy shortage was a big thing, wait till the water crisis hits. It is going to be a lot worse.

GEORGE, *Idaho Falls*.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CORCOS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, it is a privilege to bring to the attention of my colleagues the remarkable record of humanitarian work and numerous accomplishments of Albert Corcos, one of the truly great humanitarian leaders of our time.

He is now 98 and lives in Concarneau, France, with his loving wife Camille. He recently completed his memoir spanning his incredible career, during which he was awarded the Legion of Honor in France and a distinguished Royal Award from Thailand.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Corcos's humanitarian activities when I was serving as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugees in the 1970s. In fact, Mr. Corcos had begun his extraordinary career a generation earlier, by coordinating the international effort in 1945 to resettle millions of displaced persons and refugees uprooted by World War II. He was a young man of immense energy and compassion and had been persuaded to use those talents to work with the new United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to help refugees and displaced persons in Europe. He had actually had an even earlier role, performing the hazardous duty of a young courier for the French resistance during the war.

The good work that best exemplifies Mr. Corcos's compassionate concern for the disadvantaged was his indispensable role in coming to the aid of the Indochinese refugees. After an already very full career with the International Organization for Migration and its predecessors working to resettle the displaced, he blazed a unique trail in developing and implementing the initial response to one of the great humanitarian crises of the time—the international response to the exodus of 1.5 million Indochinese refugees in the 1970s.

As Indochinese refugees flowed into neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, in 1975, it was a monumental challenge to find opportunities for their resettlement in the United States and other Western nations and to provide the logistical support to make it possible. It was vital to move the refugees out of the region rapidly, in order to keep the doors open in the first asylum countries of the region. The goal was to prevent the land borders from being closed, which would have forced refugees to take to the sea in desperation and cost thousands of lives.

Mr. Corcos postponed his retirement and put together and oversaw the system for processing and transporting refugees to the United States and other countries for resettlement. The challenges were extraordinary. The refugees were strewn across dozens of camps from northern Thailand to Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Each refugee had to be documented, fingerprinted, photographed, given medical examinations and issued transit papers. The refugees